

September 10, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO, MC,
Chairman, House Committee on Resources,
Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL, MC,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Re-
sources, Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO AND CONGRESSMAN RAHALL: The listed sportsmen conservationist organizations, representing millions of sportsmen and women across America, are writing in support of H. Res. 362, a resolution recognizing the importance and contribution of sports men and women to American society and our nation's economy.

With the coming of fall, a time-honored tradition for America's 38 million-plus sportsmen begins anew. Fall marks the beginning of the hunting season and often offers some of the best fishing. It is a time for families and friends to spend quality time in America's great outdoors, to escape the fast-paced life of suburbia, and to appreciate the beauty and bounty of nature. It provides an opportunity to pass down skills and traditions that reach back for generations, and to foster an understanding and appreciation of nature and the role of conservation and wildlife management.

For sportsmen there is also a responsibility for good stewardship for America's wildlife and natural resources. Through excise taxes on sporting equipment, license fees and conservation stamps such as the federal duck stamp, sportsmen directly contribute \$1.7 billion every year for conservation programs. The total economic contribution of sportsmen amounts to \$70 billion annually, with a ripple effect amounting to \$179 billion per year. To put this in context, if sportsmen were a corporation, they would rank #11 on the Fortune 500 list.

September 27th marks National Hunting and Fishing Day, so we are asking that you and your colleagues expeditiously move this resolution so that the House of Representatives can approve it and reaffirm the appreciation for America's sportsmen on Capitol Hill.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association;
BASS/ESPN Outdoors; Bear Trust
International; Boone and Crockett
Club; Bowhunting Preservation Alliance;
Buckmasters American Deer
Foundation; California Waterfowl Association;
Campfire Club of America;
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation;
Conservation Force; Conservation Fund.

Dallas Safari Club; Delta Waterfowl;
Ducks Unlimited; Foundation for
North American Wild Sheep; Houston
Safari Club; Hunting and Shooting
Sports Heritage Trust; International
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;
International Hunter Education
Association; Izaak Walton League of
America; Mule Deer Foundation.

National Rifle Association; National
Shooting Sports Foundation; National
Trappers Association; National Wild
Turkey Federation; North American
Grouse Partnership; Northwest
Sportfishing Industry Association;
Orion The Hunter's Institute; Pheasants
Forever; Pope and Young Club;
Pure Fishing; Quail Unlimited, Inc.

Quality Deer Management Association;
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation;
Ruffed Grouse Society; Safari Club
International; Texas Wildlife Association;
The Wildlife Society; U.S. Sports-
men's Alliance; Whitetails Unlimited,
Inc.; Wildlife Forever; Wildlife Habitat
Council; Wildlife Management Institute.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 362.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 21

Whereas in 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for a total of \$15,000,000;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson designated Robert Livingston and James Monroe to negotiate the treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte;

Whereas the Louisiana Purchase included 827,987 square miles, nearly 600,000,000 acres, the largest single land purchase in our Nation's history;

Whereas the Louisiana Purchase territory stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, nearly doubling the size of the United States at that time;

Whereas this purchase enabled dramatic further westward expansion and helped fuel the Nation's rise as a world power;

Whereas 15 States or parts of States were carved out of the Louisiana Purchase territory, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming;

Whereas the land was acquired by peaceful means, in stark contrast to the usual methods of old-style empires, which often conquered new territories by force;

Whereas the acquisition secured the United States' trading abilities by guaranteeing its navigation rights on the Mississippi River and its ability to send goods through the Port of New Orleans for shipment to the Atlantic Coast and Europe; and

Whereas generations of Americans have benefited from President Jefferson's noble vision of America and his efforts at expanding our new Nation onto the continent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, recognizes the extraordinary work of the individuals involved in the transaction, and is grateful for the tremendous part the event played in fulfilling our Nation's Manifest Destiny.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 21, introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), would commemorate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase. As my colleagues know, the Louisiana Purchase was the largest single land acquisition in our Nation's history, 827,987 square miles, or nearly 600 million acres. Purchased from France in 1803 for \$15 million, it stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, nearly doubling the size of the United States at the time. Today, 15 States or parts of States exist within the area carved out by the Louisiana Purchase.

House Concurrent Resolution 21 is a commemorative resolution that would pay homage to one of the most significant events of our Nation's history. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 21.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult to overstate the historical significance of the Louisiana Purchase. Looking back, it is difficult to imagine a single land purchase which doubled the size of this Nation, and it is equally hard to imagine what America might look like today had that purchase not been made.

We support the findings and sentiments expressed in this concurrent resolution and support its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, this year the United States celebrates this very significant anniversary, the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

In my home State of Louisiana in particular, but really all across the country, celebrations are taking place throughout this year in honor of the role this historic event played in our Nation's history. When President Jefferson designated Robert Livingston and James Monroe to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte, he hoped to secure for the country the Port of New Orleans and guarantee access to the important trade route along the Mississippi River. Of course, he did accomplish that; but he accomplished so much more than even that, doubling the size of the new country. The whole territory stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and included all or part of what are now 15 States; and, of course, it enabled further westward expansion by later settlers.

□ 1430

It is noteworthy of course that this largest land transaction in our country's history was accomplished without the use of force, which was certainly in stark contrast to similar land transactions of earlier countries and empires. The Louisiana Purchase has been called the greatest land deal in history, as was mentioned, 600 million acres for \$15 million or about 4 cents an acre. Not only did the acquisition guarantee our navigation rights along the Mississippi and our ability to ship goods for foreign trade, but it was absolutely central to our rise as a world power.

So it is fitting that we take a little time today to formally recognize the significance these events played in shaping our country and the way it benefited generations of Americans.

The Louisiana Purchase shaped the United States's destiny. Our country will be forever grateful for the extraordinary work of the individuals involved and the noble vision exercised by President Jefferson. Robert Livingston who was a relative, by the way, of my predecessor, Bob Livingston. As he signed the treaty, he perhaps put it best: "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our whole lives . . . from this day the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank . . . the instruments which we have just signed . . . prepare ages of happiness for innumerable generations of human creatures."

I would like to thank my colleagues from Louisiana, also the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS), the site of the initial surveying in our new territory; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), home of President Jefferson; the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), Chair of the Committee on Resources, and all of the leadership for their work on this legislation.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate an event in our Nation's history that we can all join together in celebrating.

With the stroke of a pen in 1803, President Jefferson doubled America in size, making us one of the largest Nations in the world. The Louisiana Purchase comprised more than 600 million acres at less than 3 cents an acre in what today is the greater part of 13 states between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.

Arkansas was one of those states—the third state formed after Louisiana and Missouri. Two hundred years later, Arkansas continues to prove itself a valuable asset to our Nation. Our state has contributed much to our great country—our agriculture and other industries feed our Nation and fuel our economy; our State's natural beauty is an endless source of enjoyment for families and visitors. Arkansas has supplied our Nation with food and fiber, entertainers, and even a president.

The 828,000 square mile west of the Mississippi River is some of the most beautiful and bountiful land in our country. If only \$15 million could go that far today! I invite my colleagues and our Nation to join me in celebrating one of the single most noteworthy

events in our Nation's history—the Louisiana Purchase. This year as we celebrate the bicentennial, I hope that you will visit Arkansas and any of the other states that were purchased for so little, and that now prove to be priceless.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the storied legacy of the great state I represent, Louisiana. This year marks the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, and today I am proud to commemorate this monumental event in our nation's history and in the history of the state of Louisiana and welcome the nation's participation in the yearlong celebration that will educate, entertain, and impart a lasting wonder for Louisiana. I have the esteemed privilege of representing Louisiana's fifth district, the 'heart of Louisiana'.

In 1803, Thomas Jefferson and Napoleon negotiated the United States' purchase of Louisiana from France. With just two strokes of the pen, our young nation doubled in size overnight, becoming one of the largest nations in the world. The Louisiana Purchase, approved by treaty in April of 1803, is called the most significant real estate transaction in the history of civilization. Encompassing over 800,000 square miles of land and costing about four cents per acre, the Louisiana Purchase eventually became all or part of 15 states: Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, South Dakota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana and definitely not least of all, Louisiana, my home state.

As part of the bicentennial celebration friends of the Louisiana Purchase bicentennial have collaborated to provide museum exhibits, concerts, films, re-enactments, and memorabilia. One of the museum exhibits that is especially dear to me is the Heart of Spain at the Alexandria Museum of Art in my district. Louisiana's history is intertwined with that of Spain's, and the influences of Spanish culture are still realized in the state's food, architecture, and government. In honor of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, the Alexandria Museum of Art is inviting America, until November 30, to experience artifacts from world-renown Spanish museums, monasteries, churches and private collections El Corazon de Espana, in Alexandria, Louisiana offers a unique opportunity to be nourished and inspired by art and culture that is indicative of the friendship between Spain and Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to extend an invitation to my colleagues and to the nation to live, learn, and love Louisiana's rich history. When commenting to Thomas Jefferson on the Louisiana Purchase General Horatio Gates said, "Let the land rejoice for you have bought Louisiana for a song." Today, I hope my colleagues will join with Louisiana, its citizens and friends, in singing "Happy Birthday."

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 21.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the current resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING EXCHANGE OF LAND AT FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1113) to authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1113

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXCHANGE OF LANDS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to convey to Christ Church of St. Simons Island, Georgia, the approximately 6.0 acres of land within the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument adjacent to Christ Church and depicted as "NPS Lands for Exchange" on the map entitled "Fort Frederica National Monument 2003 Boundary Revision" numbered 369/80016, and dated April 2003, in exchange for approximately 8.7 acres of land to be acquired by Christ Church, which is depicted as "Private Lands for Addition" on the same map.

(b) *MAP AVAILABILITY.*—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) *BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.*—Upon completion of the land exchange under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall revise the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument to reflect the exchange and shall administer the land acquired through the exchange as part of that monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1113, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), and amended by the Committee on Resources, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey 6 acres of land within the boundaries of Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, Georgia, to the Christ Church also located on St. Simons Island. In return, the park service would receive 8.7 acres of nearby property that would be acquired first by the church from the Sea Island Company and then exchanged with the park service. The exchange is viewed by all parties as a win-win.

Mr. Speaker, Christ Church has doubled in size in the last 9 years, and the additional land is needed for its expansion. In return, the monument would receive lands that are known to contain valuable archeological remains from the colonial period.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1113, as amended.